

General Observations

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On the Petitions now before the *Honourable House of Commons of Great Britain*, Praying a Remedy against the Running of Wool from *Great Britain*, and Wool and Woollen Goods from *Ireland* into Foreign Parts, and on a Scheme proposing a Method to prevent the same. Humbly offered to the Consideration of both Houses of Parliament, by many Considerable Traders concern'd in carrying on the *Woollen Manufactory* for Exportation, in and about the City of LONDON.

Observ I.



T's evident, from the Petitions before the *Honourable House*, that the *Woollen Manufactory* for Exportation out of *Great Britain*, is in a declining State, and owing principally to the Running Wool from *Great Britain*, and Wool and Woollen Goods from *Ireland*, which have been set forth in the said Petitions, and prov'd to the *Honourable Committee*.

II. That its evident, the present Laws in force have not been sufficient, neither can answer the desired End, especially in *Ireland*, not discovering the Quantity of Wool grown in either Kingdom. Therefore,

We humbly conceive, no Law can Remedy this Evil in either Kingdom, but a General Register, that will give the Knowledge of all Wool shorn and pull'd, and for whom, keeping it in view through the many Hands through which it will pass till manufactur'd, which a Register, as in *Kent* and *Sussex* will not do.

III. That by the *London* Petition it appears, we had no separate View from the Good of the whole Kingdom, but apprehending when the great Evil of Running Wool is prevented, by a general Register, then the opening more Ports in *Ireland* and *Great Britain* will be beneficial, as *London*, *Tarmouth* and *Exeter* in *England*, and *Galloway* and *Limrick* in *Ireland*.

IV. That no Law can be executed, where it tends to the starving of the Inhabitants, tho' there be many Officers and great Penalties, and such is the Case of *Ireland*, that tho' they have a large Linnen Manufactory, yet it can't employ all their Hands, and as they are restrain'd from exporting their Manufactur'd Goods, they will always be expos'd to the Temptation of Running their Wool and Woollen Goods, unless some Method be made use of in their Favour, which may be for the Interest of both Kingdoms, as to their Wool.

V. That the taking off the Duty in *Ireland*, from Wool exported to *England*, have made it the more easie for them to receive a Register, and when a General Register is fixt, the opening more Ports in *Ireland*, as above, we conceive would be for the Advantage of both Kingdoms, yet would not be a sufficient Relief to the Poor of *Ireland*, unless some other ways found to employ them.

VI. As its the Interest of *England* that no Wool be Run, and nothing can prevent it but a Register, a General Register for both Kingdoms will be absolutely necessary, otherwise *Ireland* may have Cause to complain, that we want their Wool to run it of our selves, and as the Interest of both Kingdoms as to their Wool, should be the same; so the Preserving, by a Register, the *Irish* Wool, the Poor in *Ireland* will be employ'd in spinning White Yarn for us, which will render us capable of serving foreign Markets cheaper than now we can, and as a Register in *Ireland* is to serve *England*, they ought to bear as little Part of the Charge as possible.

On these Considerations, we humbly recommend a Scheme of a Register now before the *Honourable Committee* for the *Woollen Manufactory*, presented at their first Sitting.

The Method of executing the Register in each Kingdom will be much the same, therefore we give you an Abstract of the Register in general, the Charge of it will be small; but as the Trades-man will reap the Benefit, so should bear the Charge, and not the Government.

The Abstract in general is, That all Sheep and Lambs with their Wool, Woollen Yarn, and Sheep and Lambs Skins with the Wooll on, are propos'd to be register'd in *Great Britain*, and in *Ireland*, Woollen Goods also, and that no Person shall deal in Wool, &c. but by License, the Farmer or private Person excepted; and that no Ship or Vessel shall take Wooll, &c. in for *Fersey*, &c. or Coast-ways in *Great Britain* but by License; in *Ireland*, no Ship licens'd but such as do belong to that Kingdom, and one of their Owners or Master is an Inhabitant, and none carried Coast-ways, on any Pretence whatsoever.

Registers to be fixt in *Fersey*, &c. *Ile of White*, and the *Ile of Man*.

That for *Great Britain*, two General Registering Offices be fixt, one in *London*, under the Care of Five Commissioners and a Controuler; the other in *Edinburgh*, under the Care of Three Commissioners and a Controuler; and for *Ireland*, one in *Dublin*, under the Care of Three Commissioners and a Controuler.

For *Great Britain*, that there be chose 71 proper Officers, as Head Register one for a County, and 380 for Duputy Registers, Five or more for a County, as found needful; also Three Deputy Controulers, 70 foot check Officers, 25 Riding Inspectors, 40 Clerks, 16 inferior Officers, to be station'd as in the Scheme propos'd; the whole amount of Charge in *Great Britain* computed, as particulariz'd in the Scheme is 51460*l.* Sterling per Annum.

In *Ireland*, That in like manner there be chosen 32 Head Registers, 160 Barony Registers, 100 foot Coast Officers, 36 foot check Officers, 7 Riding Inspectors, 2 Deputy Controulers, 20 Clerks, and 8 inferior Officers to be station'd as in the said Scheme propos'd.

The whole Amount of Charges in *Ireland* will be

34991*l.* Sterling per Annum.

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That

That a Day be fixed in each Kingdom, and an Entry made of all Stock in Hand of Sheep and Lambs, Wool, Yarn, and Sheep and Lambs Skins with Wool on and in *Ireland* Woollen Goods also.

That each Farmer, Grower, Sheep-master, or Persons that deal in Sheep, shall within three Days after *Lady-day* and *Michaelmas*, make a half Years Entry of all Sheep and Wool then in Stock, which Entry shall be under hand, and sent to the respective Register paying with each 4 d. and 1 d. for 100 Sheep or Lambs, the said Register to return a Duplicate under his Hand.

That no Sheep &c. shall be shorn before they are first well wash'd, and Notice given underhand, to the Register, the Number, Time, and Place to be shorn in.

That no Wool shorn shall be wound, but by such as are sworn to wind; no Wool before it is well lockt, nor no more nor no less than the Wool of one Sheep (the course Locks excepted) in one Fleece, and to keep a true Account of all shorn and weigh'd of each Sort, for which Account the Register shall be paid one half-penny per Score.

That when the Sheep &c. are shorn, the Proprietor of the Sheep, &c. shall within three Days send an Entry to his respective Register, of the Number of the Sheep and Lambs shorn, and Weight of each Sort of Wool and course Locks, and where lodged, paying 4 d. and 1 d. per 100, the Register returning a Duplicate under his Hand, and register the said Entry, witness the Original, and file it, making the Money receiv'd and paid.

That no Person shall deal in Wool, Woollen, Yarn or Skins with Wool on, in *Great Britain*, nor in *Ireland*, in Woollen Goods (the Farmer and for private Use excepted) but per Licence, for which he shall pay Yearly 1 s. and for each Pack of Wool &c. or 100 Skins they are Licens'd to buy or sell in the Year, 3 d. half of which to be repaid them on the Close of the Year, as in the said Scheme propos'd.

That all Houses and Places where Wool, &c. shall be lodg'd, shall be enter'd Yearly for which shall pay 1 s.

That all Wool and Yarn for Sale in *Great Britain*, shall be weighed by a Draught of 30 l. $\frac{1}{4}$ Standing, if the Quantity is so much, and in *Ireland*, by the Stone of 16 l. $\frac{1}{4}$ Standing, and pack'd in no greater a Quantity in one Pack than 244 sutable pound Standing, and packt in no other Cloth than Linnen, nor form than now in use by the fair Trader in *England*; and on the Packing-Cloth, shall be the Tare of the Cloth, and neat Weight of the Wool or Yarn, the Number of Fleeces and Pads of Yarn in Black.

That no Wool nor Yarn in *Great Britain*, if not in Manufactory, more than 29 l. shall be removed and carryed out, without a Permit from the respective Register, and if in Manufacturing, not without a Note of the Master or Owner; so Skins, more than five under the Proprietor's Hand, from whom and to whom with their Quantity and Use, and in *Ireland*, Woollen Goods also, if more than one piece or 39 Yards; and that no Person shall travel with Wool, &c. before the Sun is up, or after Sun set, except in Manufacturing and Stated Carriers.

That all Persons that deal in Wool, &c. (Grower and for private use excepted) shall to prevent Trouble to themselves, keep all their Wool and Yarn for Sale, or Stock, for Manufacturing, in some Room separate from other Parts of Trade, which shall be deem'd their Stock in Hand; all found elsewhere forfeited, as tho in a House not enter'd, and shall also keep a Book, as directed to by the Controuler, in which shall be daily inserted what is receiv'd in and from whom, and what deliver'd out and to whom, or to Trade; so also in *Ireland's* Woollen Goods, which Book shall be cast up on each side by the Trades-man weekly, and sign'd, and every four Weeks ballanced by the Register.

That the Year shall end the *Saturday* after the 25th of *March*, and each Quarter the *Saturday* after each Quarter-Day.

That each Trades-man shall send a fair Copy of his Book, as kept every Quarter to the Register and 6 d.

That all Persons designing to remove Wool, or Yarn, shall under their Hand send to the Register, the Contents of each Pack, to whom sold or to be sent, by what Carryer, what Road, and where lie at Night, and Time to be deliver'd, paying 6 d. The said Register shall make out one Permit, with the Contents, and one Duplicate, the Permit the Carrier shall deliver with his Loading on forfeiting his Cattle, &c. the Duplicate for a Discharge for so much Stock deliver'd, and Entry made by the Person that sold it.

The Person to whom the Wool was sent, shall within three Days after received, send the said Permit signed by him, to his respective Register, paying with it 6 d. per Pack, the said Register shall witness the said Permit and register it, and file and make out two Duplicates under his hand, one as a Discharge for the Carrier, the other as a Safeguard for the Person that has the Wool, as so much Stock and Entry made, and so from Person to Person, if more than 29 l. of Wool, &c. and Woollen Goods, if more than 39 Yards in *Ireland*, but all to be inserted in the Book kept, as propos'd by the Scheme.

That no Ship or Vessel shall take Wool, &c. on Board for the Islands, but such who are licensed for that Purpose, nor Coast-ways for that Purpose, nor in *Ireland* Coast-ways on any Pretence whatsoever; and no Ship to be licens'd in *Ireland* to bring Wool to *England*, but such as do belong to *Ireland*, and one of the Owners or Master is an Inhabitant there, and before shipt shall be weigh'd on the Keys, and a Bond given by the Exporter, Master and Mate, of five times the Value, to deliver it as consign'd, the Register to make out a Permit of the Contents.

Which Permit shall be witnessed by the Exporter and Port Officer, which the said Master shall deliver with his Lading, to the Port Officer of the Port the Ship is bound to, which Permit the said Officer shall enter a Copy of and witness the Original, the Day receiv'd, and return it to the Master, he paying 6 d.

The said Port Officer shall by the first Post send a Copy thereof as Witness to the said Register, who granted the said Permit, and on receiving the Original Permit, witnessed as by the Account appears, and no jealousy of Fraud, the said Bond shall be deliver'd up cancell'd.

A Survey of the Money to be Paid.

By the Farmer yearly, if 1000 Sheep, no more than	0	3	6.
By the Butcher, if he kills yearly 1000 Sheep,	0	6	6.
By the Fell-monger, if he buys 1000 Skins,	0	6	6.
And for his Wool 6d. per Pack.			



By

By the Maker of Goods 9 d. per Pack	}			
but for what Wool or Yarn he sells 1 s. 3 d. per Pack.				
By the Wool Jobber, 1 s. 3 d. per Pack, and Yearly		0	4	0
By the Wool Stapler, 1 s. 3 d. per Pack, and Yearly		0	4	0
By the Yarn-maker, 1 s. 3 d. per Pack, and Yearly		0	4	0

The whole received in both Kingdoms; in one Year, is computed at — 99723 l.

The Charge in both Kingdoms, ————— 86451 l.

Remains in Cash ————— 13272 l.

To be Re-paid the Trades-man.

By the method propos'd in the said Scheme, the Quantity of all Wool grown in both Kingdoms will be known, and to whom belong, and as each Person is charg'd with so much Stock, it will be impossible that any should be Run, but what will be discover'd, and to whom belong, and as such pay the Penalty as tho' seiz'd on Ship-Board.

When a true Account of Wool grown and pul'd is taken; and each Person stockt with so much Wool, it will become the Interest of every such Person, and any into whose Hands it may come, not to remove it without a Permit as it cost but 6 d. per Pack, and tis impossible they should escape being discover'd, therefore but few Officers will be needfull.

By the method in which the several Sorts of Officers are station'd, and each keeping a Journal of Time and Place and that sent to the Controulers after every four Weeks, they will be a check on each other, so that if due care and Dilligence be Used nothing can escape them, even of Goods Run inward of which there is at present, great Quantities in Ireland.

By the method of giving and discharging the Bond, and advising the Controuler if they touch at any Port, before they arrive at the Port to which bound, it will be very difficult for the crafty Trader under the Covert of the Bond and Entry, to Run any and save the Penalty, This Scheme proposing a special Commission and Officers, which if it takes Place, the Employment of the Irish Poor, in Spining part of the Wool, they preserve from Runing, for us, will at once bring Irelands Interest into Englands, as to her Wool, making it their joint Interest to promot the English Woollen Trade for Exportation, for the more England Exports in Goods, the more Ireland will Export to England in Yarn, so that the employing the Irish Poor, will be employing the English, by rendering us able to go Cheaper to Market, and thereby prevents our Rivals.

It's Evident this Scheme of a Register in this friendly Manner, will be easie and cheap, which no fair Trader can complain of, and will make the unfair Dealer only uneasie, honest Men will be a Check to dishonest Men, our Wool be secured for employing our Poor, our Manufacturers who employ the Poor, have Life in Trade, and Merchants serve other Countries with our own Growth and Labour, and none to under sell them.

OBSERVATIONS
upon the
PETITIONS
of the
Woollen Manufacturers.
And a Scheme.

